

# UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Professor V.A. McKusick,  
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16th June, 1988

Dear Victor,

Thank you for your letter about HUGO. I don't envy you the task but it seems to me that some kind of co-ordinating body like this is absolutely essential. I have just spent some time with Tom Caskey in Germany and tried to get a feel for how the various groups interested in the human genome programme are interacting and it seems to me that at the moment the whole thing is extremely disconnected. As far as I could gather from Tom the agencies involved in the States will not try and co-ordinate or push in any one direction but simply invite workers to apply for various projects. I am still not absolutely clear what Sydney Brenner has in mind for this country although I am on his small committee and no doubt will gradually get to grips with the problem. My personal view is that without some kind of international effort and real co-ordination the thing is going to be a bit of a mess.

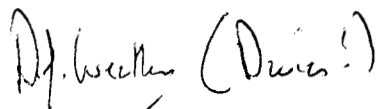
I think London would be a good place to have a European office and I have no doubts that Walter Bodmer would like to take this on.

My personal concern about all this, Victor, is that in a country like this with very limited research funds there may be a tendency to try to push people like the MRC into support for the genome project at the expense of other more immediate projects. Tom tells me American funding is likely to be "on top" of other funding and if this is the case I think the whole thing is fine. But I do have genuine concerns about the funding problem here and so do a lot of young investigators. This is important because it may produce a rather negative approach if the thing is not handled properly.

I will correspond with you further about this when I have been to Sydney's next meeting but I am delighted that you are taking this on.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.J. Weatherall (D.J.!)". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

D.J. Weatherall